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WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO

THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

BY

THOMAS JOSEPH PETTIGREW,

F. R. S. F. S. A. F. L. S.

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons; Surgeon to the Asylum for Female Orphans, &c.; late Lecturer on Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and the Principles and Practice of Surgery; Doctor of Philosophy of the University of Gottingen, &c. &c. &c.

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C. H. Clark

SIR CHARLES MANSFIELD CLARKE, BART.

M.D. F.R.S. ETC. ETC. ETC.

"Rite maturos aperire partus."—Horat

Whatever relates to the condition, safety, or happiness of that sex so beautifully described by the immortal poet as,

> ——————————— "last and best
> Of all God's works, creature in whom excell'd
> Whatever can to sight or thought be form'd
> Holy, divine, good, amiable, or sweet!"

and upon whom our greatest happiness may justly be said to depend, must merit the deepest attention and regard. The study of midwifery claims for its assistance the sciences of anatomy, physiology, surgery, and medicine, inasmuch as they relate to the formation and growth of the fœtus, the changes which the several organs undergo during the process of gestation, and the various diseases incidental to the gravid state and to the earliest days of the infant. It is a branch of the most intense interest—involving, as it does, the safety of the fairest and most amiable part of creation. It was a study deemed by the ancients not unworthy of their regard. Hippocrates wrote several treatises on this subject:—*De Morbis Mulierum; De Superfœtatione; De Virginibus;* &c. Aristotle, Galen, Ætius, Albucasis Avicenna, and others, have followed this illustrious example. The first physiological work, however, of real value, relating to the origin and growth of the human fœtus, is to be found in the writings of the celebrated Dr. Harvey. That men of high and exalted attainments—such as possessed by those already named, and others of minor character, that might easily be enumerated—should have bent their thoughts to the subject of midwifery, cannot be a matter of surprise—seeing, as we do, that, in all ages, nature, however powerful in general, has not always been able to support and maintain her own laws; and that, but for the interposition and assistance of the medical practitioner, many individuals must have been lost to society. It has been well said, that no science leads us so immediately to a survey of our own origin as this; that it presents to our view the rudiments of the

fœtus, and shows how they gradually unfold themselves, in magnitude and figure, from conception to the time of birth; illustrating what Garth so well expressed in those memorable lines in "The Dispensary:"—

> "How the dim speck of entity began
> To extend its recent form, and stretch to man.
> To how minute an origin we owe
> Young Ammon, Cæsar, and the great Nassau."

The French have excelled the English in the advancement of obstetric knowledge; and the labours of Paré, Guillemeau, Mauriceau, Deventer, and others, have justly become distinguished. They had lying-in hospitals established at a much earlier period than in England; and to the advantages of instruction offered by these institutions, must be attributed much of the perfection of the science of midwifery at the present day. Dr. John Maubray, the author of "The Female Physician, or the Whole Art of New Improved Midwifery," and "Midwifery brought to Perfection," was the first public teacher of midwifery in Britain, and delivered his lectures at his house in Bond Street: and Sir Richard Manningham, in 1739, established a ward or small hospital, attached to the Parochial Infirmary of St. James's, Westminster, for the exclusive reception of lying-in women: and this offers the first public hospital for obstetric cases in England.

It may not be unacceptable to the reader to have, in this place, some account of the earliest known work, in the English language, upon midwifery; the original manuscript of which, presented by the translator (for it is a foreign work) to Katherine, queen of Henry VIII., is in the possession of the writer of this Memoir. It is entitled, "The Byrth of Mankynde newlye translated oute of Laten into Englysshe. In the whiche is entreated of all suche thynges the whiche chaunce to women in their labor, and all suche infirmities whiche happen unto the Infantes after they be delyvered. And also at the latter ende or in the thyrde or laste booke is entreated of the conception of mankynde, and howe manye wayes it maye be letted or furtheryd, with diverse other frutefull thynges, as dothe appere in the table before the booke." Following this title is, "An Admonicion to the Reader: For so muche as we have enterprysed the interpretation of this present booke, offerynge and dedycatynge it unto our mooste gracious and vertuous Quene Katherin onely; by it myndynge and tenderynge the utilite and wealthe of all women, as touchynge the greate parell and dangours, whiche mooste comonlye oppresseth them in their paynfull labours. I requyre all suche men in the name of God whiche at any tyme shall chaunce to have this booke, that they use it godlye and onely to the profight of their neighbours,

utterly enschuynge all rebawde and unsemelye communicacion of any thynges contayned in the same, as they wyll answere before God; whiche as witnessyth Christ wyll requyre a counte of all ydell wordes, and muche more then of all rebawde and uncharitable wordes. Every thynge as saithe Solomon hathe his tyme, and truelye that is farre out of tyme, yea and farre from all good honestie, that some use at the commune tables, and without any difference before all companyes rudelye and leudelye to talke of suche thynges, in the whiche they ought rather to knowe muche and to saye littel, but onelye where it maye do goode, magnifyeing the myghtye God of nature in all his workes, cōpassionatynge and pytyinge oure even Christians the women whiche sustayne and endure for the tyme so greate dolor and payne for the byrthe of mankynde and delyveraunce of the same in to the worlde. Prayse God in all his workes."

After this "Admonicion" is the Dedication:—"Unto the most gracious and in all goodnesse most excellent vertuous Lady Quene Katheryne wyfe and most derely belovyd spouse unto the most myghty sapient Christen prynce Kynge Henry the Eighte Rychard Jonas wyssheth ppetuall joye and felycyte;" in which the translator speaks of his original as being "a boke entitled *De Partu Hominis*, that is to saye, of the byrth of mankynde compyled by a famous doctor in Physyke, called Eucharius, the whiche he wrote in his owne mother tunge, that is, beynge a Germayne, in the Germayne speche, afterwarde by an other clarke, at the requeste and desyre of his frende transposed into Laten, the whiche boke for the singular utilite and profete that ensueth unto all suche as rede it, and mooste specially unto all women (for whose onely cause it was written) hathe ben sythe in the Doutche and Frenche Speche sett forthe and emprynted in greate nōber, so that ther be fewe matrones and women in that partes but (if they can rede) wyll have this boke alwayes in readynesse," &c. The work is arranged in three books, which are subdivided into chapters, and treats of various things relating to the formation, development, and bringing forth of the child, and of the diseases incidental both to the mother and child. The first book contains sixteen figures, representing the child in various positions, far more fanciful than true. The date of this MS. must be about the year 1540. A copy of the original work in German, by Eucharius Rösslin (little Rose), is in the possession of J. B. Inglis, Esq. No copy of the Latin edition, described as by Eucharius Rhodion, is to be met with in any of our public libraries. Dr. Denman, in the preface to his "Introduction to the Practice of Midwifery," notices the English work only, and states its publication to have been in 1540, and to have been executed by "Thomas Raynold Physition." The greater number of copies have the name of

this physician attached to them; and there are very numerous editions. That by Richard Jonas is exceedingly scarce, and it differs from that which bears the name of Raynolde. It is the first medical work which has prints reasonably-well executed from neat drawings.

Eucharius Rösslin, or Rhodion, as he græcised his name, a practice not uncommon in the sixteenth century, was a native of Frankfort on the Main, celebrated for his knowledge of botany, upon which science he published a work in folio, in 1533, and again in 1566. This work belonged properly to Cuba; and the only merit Rösslin has in the performance, is, having made additions to it, augmenting it by all that Jerome of Brunswick had published, and illustrating the whole by better figures. It is, strictly speaking, a kind of Hortus Sanitatis, treating alike of plants and metals useful in medicine, and is called "Kreuterbuch (Book of Plants) von aller Kreuter, Gethier, Gesteinen und Metal, Nutz und Gebranche." Eloy mentions* the work on midwifery, and gives as its title, "De Partu Hominis et quæ circa ipsum accidunt, adeoque de parturientium et Infantium morbis atque curâ libellus. Parisiis, 1535. 8vo.;" but he erroneously places the first German edition as belonging to the year 1532, four years posterior to the date of Mr. Inglis's copy. The writer of this sketch has examined this copy, and finds its title to be, "Der Schwanngeren frawen und Hebammen Rosegarten." A wood-cut, on the title-page, represents the mother in bed, attended by two females, whilst the infant is being bathed by the nurse. On the reverse of the title is also another wood-cut, representing the delivery. The work is dedicated by the author to Katherine of Saxony, Duchess of Brunswick and Lunenburgh, with "Ermanung zuden Schwangeren frawen und Hebammen," a poem in five pages, dated "Wurms, 20 Hornung, 1513," which may therefore be considered as the date of the earliest edition of the work. The cuts mentioned in the English copies are to be found in the original; the place of printing, and date of which, are thus expressed:—"Gedrückt und vollendet inn der Keyserlichen statt Augspurg, durch Heinrich Steyner, 19 Novem. 1528."

Raynolde's translation is to be regarded as different from that by Jonas, of which only one printed edition is mentioned by Ames as having been executed in 1540, and which is of exceeding rarity. Raynolde's first edition seems to be of the date of 1545, and is said to be printed by Thomas Ray. As he is not known as a printer, it is probably a contraction of the translator's name, and he may have undertaken the printing of the work. Of this translation many editions are extant, printed by Jugge, and other well-known

* Dict. Hist. de Medicine, ii. 166.

printers; and the work, according to Dr. Denman, was the text-book of midwifery for nearly a century.

From this digression let us now more immediately revert to the distinguished physician whose name is placed at the head of this article. With unmixed delight we must view the exercise of the talents of such men as William Hunter, Denman, Osborn, Smellie, Blundell, Merriman, Ley, and others, to the relief of the sufferings of women in the hour of childbirth. No names, however, stand more conspicuously among modern philanthropists of this class, than the Clarkes. Dr. John Clarke, an elder brother of Sir Charles, must here be specially mentioned. He was highly celebrated for his sound and judicious views in whatever related to the practice of midwifery, or the diseases of lying-in women and infant children. He brought to the exercise of a department, which had, in former times, been assigned chiefly to the care of women, a knowledge necessary to the practice of a physician. He laboured with assiduity to develope the mysterious processes of generation; and demonstrated that the consideration of these phenomena were connected generally with the functions of the animal economy, and equally worthy of the study of the philosopher and the physician. He was a fellow-student of Dr. Baillie, and attended the lectures of the Hunters. He studied midwifery under Dr. Denman and Dr. Osborn, and afterwards became associated with them as a lecturer in this branch of science. He rapidly attained to a most extensive practice, and published the following works:—

1. Province of Midwifery in the Practice of this Art disclaiming against Male Practitioners. 1751.—2. A Satirical Tract on the same Subject.—3. An Essay on the Epidemic Disease of Lying-in Women, of the Yaws, 1787 and 1788. 1788.—4. Practical Essays on the Management of Pregnancy and Labour, and on the Inflammatory and Febrile Diseases of Lying-in Women. 1793, 1806.—5. Commentaries on some of the most important Diseases of Children. 1815.—6. On the Effects of certain Articles of Food, especially Oysters, on Women after Childbirth. 1815.—7. History of a Fatal Hæmorrhage from the Laceration of the Fallopian Tube from the Case of an Extra-Uterine Fœtus. 1793.—8. Observations on the case of a Woman who died with a Fœtus in the Fallopian Tube. 1800.—9. Fatal Case of Hernia of some of the Abdominal Viscera strangulated in the Cavity of the Thorax. 1800.—10. Observations on the Management of Cases in which the Face of the Child presents towards the Os Pubis. 1800.—11. Description of an Extraordinary Production of Human Generation. Phil. Trans. 1793.—12. Of a Tumour in the Placenta. Ib.

The practice of Dr. John Clarke became too extensive for his strength, and it was necessary to lessen the fatigue of his professional labours; he therefore transferred to his brother (now Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke) a considerable portion of practice, which neither his health nor his time would allow him satisfactorily to execute. A facetious member of the medical profession, and a very worthy man, was pleased to sport, in what he called

"Nugæ Canoræ, or Epitaphian Mementos (in Stone-cutter's Verse) of the Medici Family of Modern Times," upon this circumstance, in the following ludicrous manner:—

"Beneath this stone, shut up in the dark,
Lies a learned man-midwife, y'clep'd Doctor Clarke.
On earth while he lived, by attending men's wives,
He increased population some thousands of lives:
Thus a gain to the nation was gain to himself;
And enlarged population, enlargement of pelf.
So he toiled late and early, from morning till night,
The squalling of children his greatest delight.
Then worn out with *labours*, he died skin and bone,
And his ladies he left all to *Mansfield* and *Stone*."

The anachronism in the last line must be regarded as a poetical license: since Mr. Stone, the son of Dr. A. D. Stone, Physician to the Charter House, and the nephew of Dr. John Clarke, was not at that time in practice. Dr. John Clarke died in August, 1815, aged fifty-six years. His death was caused by dropsy, the effect of organic change in the stomach. Had he lived, it is probable, he would have continued his valuable Commentaries upon some of the important diseases of children.

The success, unequalled success, of Sir Charles Clarke, is not, however, to be attributed merely to the celebrity of his brother. He possesses a quick and lively penetration, knowledge, and judgment, which deservedly render him a practitioner of the very first eminence. No other physician can quit London for five or six successive months, and return to exercise as much practice as he is disposed to accomplish. He may be said to enjoy the highest professional reputation. It has been earned and secured by a studious devotion to his profession, directed by all that is honourable and liberal towards his brethren and the public. It would be difficult to name a practitioner who is more generally esteemed and respected than Sir Charles Clarke. He is the son of Mr. John Clarke, of Chancery Lane, Surgeon; was born on the 28th of May, 1782, and received his classical education at St. Paul's School. His medical education was derived by attendance at St. George's Hospital, and from the Lectures on Anatomy, at the Hunterian School, by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Thomas. Also on Surgery, by Mr. Wilson: on Materia Medica, Chemistry, and the Practice of Physic, by Dr. George Fordyce and Dr. George Pearson; and on Midwifery, by his brother Dr. John Clarke. Having thus obtained all necessary preliminary knowledge of his profession in its various branches of study, he was admitted a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and spent two of the earliest years of his professional life as an Assistant Surgeon in the Hertfordshire Militia.

and in the Third Regiment of Foot Guards. He subsequently devoted his attention more particularly to the subject of midwifery, and to the diseases of women and children. He associated with Dr. John Clarke as a lecturer on these subjects, in 1804, and continued to deliver regular courses until the year 1821. For many years he held the appointment of Surgeon to the Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, which he resigned about the time he ceased to lecture; but the interests and welfare of the Institution still continue to be objects of his attention and regard. In the year 1825 he was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society; and having, in the year 1827, become a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, he was appointed, in the year 1830, Physician to the Queen Adelaide, on the accession of King William IV. to the throne of these realms. On September 30, 1831, he was created a Baronet; and in the year 1836 was elected, by the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, into their body.

Incessantly engaged in the performance of the active duties of a most laborious profession, Sir Charles has not had leisure for many literary productions. The excellence of that which he has published serves only to awaken our regret that he should not have written more. His works display acute perception, accurate observation, force and power of judgment, and prove their author to be the possessor of a vigorous and comprehensive mind. In the third volume of the "Transactions of a Society for the Improvement of Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge," Sir Charles has detailed a "Case of Sudden Death during Parturition; with an Account of a Singular Disease of the Uterus, which was discovered upon opening the Body." The peculiar condition here referred to consisted of numerous lacerations of the peritoneal coat of the organ, without any rupture of its muscular structure. The case is very difficult of solution. The preparation was preserved, and deposited in the late Mr. Wilson's museum. Our author does not undertake to explain the appearances presented in this case; he contents himself with shewing the inefficiency of any explanation afforded by the ordinary suppositions which naturally present themselves to the inquirer on the occasion. Very few cases of this kind are known: one occurred in the practice of Dr. David Davis, and is related by him in his "Principles and Practice of Obstetric Medicine," vol. ii. p. 1065. Mr. W. H. Partridge, of Birmingham, has also related a case. (Med. Chir. Trans. v. xix.) and Dr. John Ramsbotham has recorded one in his "Practical Observations on Midwifery," p. 409. The fleshy structure of the uterus did not seem to be implicated in the injury sustained in these cases.

Sir Charles Clarke has published a very important work, consisting of "Observations on some of the Diseases of Females." His object, one of

practical utility, is well and modestly expressed in his preface. It has appeared to him desirable, "to make some arrangement of the sexual diseases of the female; and to shew that diseases having some symptoms in common, are, nevertheless, very dissimilar in their character, and require very different treatment;" also, "to demonstrate the impropriety of designating diseases by names which do not convey a true idea of their character: and to point out the dangerous consequences of treating symptoms instead of diseases." His opportunities to do justice to the subject have been great:—extensively engaged with his brother in practice, connected with the school rendered illustrious by the names of Denman and Osborn, it was next to impossible that a mind so active, so inquisitive, and so powerful as that possessed by our author, should not have enabled him to give to the medical public a valuable addition to the branch of his profession to which his attention had been so especially directed. He has truly said, that, "in this work no more hypothetical reasoning has been admitted than was absolutely necessary. The author has endeavoured to confine himself to facts, and the simple narrative of them: he has no new theory to offer—no new medicine to propose, the virtues of which he is desirous of establishing." No quackery—nothing exclusive. No part of medical inquiry has needed more patient investigation than that to which Sir Charles has applied himself: no branch less perfectly understood by the profession at large; yet none involves more serious consequences from imperfect knowledge, as directed to the means of relief to be afforded. It would not be possible, within the limits of this Memoir, to give even an analysis of this work: which, it may be observed, consists of two parts: one of which was published in 1814, the other in 1821. They necessarily form an essential part of every medical library, and they cannot be too carefully studied. His pathological researches are directed to the most useful and practical object; and the simple and unadorned manner in which he has communicated his knowledge, and the results of his practice in the diseases of females, have been duly estimated by the profession, and have been beneficial to the relief of suffering humanity. Sir Charles Clarke brought to his aid an acquaintance with all that previous writers of authority on these subjects had handed down to us: he has refuted their errors, or established their conjectures. He has shewn the relation of the different parts to each other in the exercise of their functions, and the modifications of the symptoms characteristic of their diseases; and upon these just and philosophical views he has established a rational ground of cure. Whatever difference of opinion may be entertained as to the merits of the classification he has adopted, the work must be regarded by all as a most valuable contribution to medical science.

THOMAS LINACRE, M.D.

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

"Nomen in exemplum sero servabimus ævo."—Milton.

Dr. Thomas Linacre (or as his name has been frequently written, Lynacer, Lynaker, Lynakre,) was born at Canterbury, in the year 1460. He was the descendant of an ancient family, mentioned by Fuller and Ward as the Linacres of Linacre Hall, in the parish of Chesterfield, in Derbyshire: whence has arisen the error of Hollingshed and others, who have stated him to have been born in the town of Derby. He received his education under William Tilly of Selling, at the King's School at Canterbury, whence in 1480 he was sent to Oxford, and elected a Fellow of All Souls' College, in 1484. He was much distinguished by his learning: to increase which, however, he travelled into Italy, accompanying his former teacher, who had been appointed on an embassy to Rome by Henry VII. Linacre lost no opportunity of acquiring knowledge; and being at Florence, he was introduced to, and became a great favourite of, the celebrated Lorenzo de Medicis, the greatest patron of letters of his age, and with the preceptors of the sons of Lorenzo he had the advantage of pursuing his studies. He read Greek with Demetrius Chalcondylas, a native of Greece, the author of a Greek Grammar, which is remarkable as being the first book printed with Greek characters. This scholar had fled from his native country, and with other learned men taken refuge in Italy, upon the capture of Constantinople by the Turks. Linacre profited also by instruction in the Latin from Agnolo Politiano. With such advantages it is not surprising that he should have excelled in his knowledge of the dead languages, and that his style should be marked by great elegance. Having made those acquisitions, he travelled to Rome, and there studied natural philosophy and physic under Hermolaus Barbarus, by whose influence he enjoyed opportunities of consulting the precious manuscripts preserved in the library of the Vatican. Thus fully imbued with classical learning and natural knowledge, and having taken a degree of Doctor of Medicine at Padua, Linacre returned to England, incorporated and settled at Oxford, at the University of which he read

lectures upon medicine. He was not long, however, permitted to remain in this place; for Henry VII. commanded him to his Court in 1501, and appointed him physician and preceptor to his son, the Prince Arthur, and he was subsequently made physician to the King himself, and also to his successor, Henry VIII., and to the Princess Mary. The honours paid to his extended learning probably induced him to abandon physic, and turn his attention to divinity; for we find that in the latter part of his life he was applying himself with great diligence to this study, and that he entered the priesthood, and obtained the rectory of Mersham, 23d October, 1509. This he held only for a month, being installed into the prebend of Eaton in the cathedral of Wells, and in 1518 to another of York. He also held other preferments in the church, which were conferred upon him by Archbishop Warham. His reasons for entering the church have never been detailed. Whether the infirmity under which he laboured, and which ultimately occasioned his death, incapacitated him from pursuing the active duties of his profession, or whether higher motives operated, we know not: but Sir John Cheke has recorded, that only a little before his death, when worn out with fatigue and sickness, he began to read the New Testament, and that upon perusing the 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters of St. Matthew, containing Christ's Sermon on the Mount, he threw the book from him with great violence, passionately exclaiming, "Either this is not the Gospel, or we are not Christians." Sir John Cheke gives a character of Linacre in his Treatise "De Pronunciatione Græcæ Linguæ." Linacre continued in the church until his decease, which took place on the 20th or 21st October, 1524, having suffered considerable torment from the disease of stone in the bladder. He was honoured with entombment in the Cathedral of St. Paul, where, in 1557, a handsome monument was erected to his memory, with the following elegant inscription by Dr. Caius, the founder of the college of that name in the University of Cambridge:

THOMAS LINACRUS, Regis Henrici VIII. Medicus; Vir et Græcè et Latinè, atque in Re Medicâ longè eruditissimus; multos ætate suâ languentes, et qui jam a medicis desperabant, Vitæ restituit. Multa Galeni Opera in Latinam Linguam, cum fide et singulari facundiâ vertit: Egregium opus de emendatâ structurâ Latini sermonis, Amicorum rogatu, paulò antè mortem edidit. Medicinæ Studiosis Oxoniæ publicas Lectiones duas, Cantabrigiæ unam, in perpetuum stabilivit. In hâc Urbe Collegium Medicorum fieri suâ industriâ curavit, cujus et Præsidens proximus electus est. Fraudes, dolosque unicè perosus; fidus amicis; omnibus ordinibus juxta clarus: cum annos ætatis quatuor supra septuaginta natus, Presbyter factus. Plenus annis ex hâc vitâ migravit, multorum desideratus, Anno Domini 1524, die 20 Octobris. Vivit post Funera Virtus.

THOMÆ LINACRO CLARISSIMO MEDICO JOHANNES CAIUS posuit ANNO 1557.

This inscription records the estimation in which his learning and abilities were generally held, and the regard entertained for his honourable and virtuous conduct. Fuller says, "It is questionable whether he was a better Latinist or Grecian, a better grammarian or physician, a better scholar or man, for his moral deportment;" and Freind, a no less competent authority, calls him, "the most accomplished scholar of the age." He states him to have been reckoned, by the best judges, as a man of bright genius and a clear understanding, as well as unusual knowledge in different parts of learning. His style, in Latin, has by some been held to be superior to that of his teacher, Poliziano; but Erasmus thought it too elaborate. Freind says he followed the style of the Epistles and Philosophical Works of Cicero, and endeavoured to express the "elegancy of Terence" and the "neatness of Celsus." Linacre, we are told in Jortin's Life of Erasmus, was so accurate, and so superstitiously exact in his compositions, and found it so difficult to satisfy himself, that he had like to have published nothing; which made Erasmus press him earnestly to communicate his labours to the public during his life-time; lest a reserve, which had its origin in caution and modesty, might be attributed to the worse motives of selfishness and ill nature.

Linacre is probably the first Englishman who manifested much acquaintance with the writings of Aristotle: and, in conjunction with John Colet, William Lily, William Grocyn, and William Latimer, in 1497, revived the learning of the ancients in this country. Linacre was the first teacher of the Greek tongue at Oxford; and Grocyn was also devoted to the same in the time of Erasmus. At this period no chair for teaching the finest language of antiquity had been established at this university. It is asserted, that upon the recommendation of Hermalao Barbaro, Linacre, Grocyn, and Latimer undertook a translation of the works of Aristotle, but they never accomplished it. Sir Thomas More was one of Linacre's pupils.

Let us now see more especially the character of his labours to promote medical science. His professional talent does not appear, so much as his classical attainments, and knowledge of general literature, to have procured for him the patronage of the Court; yet there is no reason to doubt that his judgment in medicine was highly esteemed. Among his patients were Sir R. Bray, the Lord High Treasurer, Cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop Warham, the Bishop of Winchester, &c. Caius gives testimony to his ability to practise; and his prognostic, as to the fate of his friend Lily the grammarian, in submitting to the removal of a malignant tumour of the hip, is upon record. Erasmus often consulted him on account of his frequent indispositions, which came early upon him; and, when he was sick at Paris,

to laments that he had no Linacre to assist him and prescribe for him. "Is aught more acute, more exalted, or more refined than the judgment of Linacre?" says this celebrated man. Linacre founded two lectureships of physic in Oxford, and one at Cambridge; upon which Fuller quaintly remarks, "dutifully his respect to his *mother*, *double* above his *aunt*." The former were given to Merton College, where more attention was paid to physic than at the other colleges, and the latter to St. John's; and the duty imposed upon the lecturers was to explain Hippocrates and Galen to the students. This is of itself sufficient evidence of the interest felt by Linacre to advance the medical profession; but it is further manifested by an act which will be held in perpetual remembrance—the establishment of the Royal College of Physicians of London. His enlightened mind viewed with distress the condition of the practice of physic in his day. By no legal restraint was its exercise restricted to competent practitioners. He saw it engrossed by illiterate persons, chiefly monks and empirics, whose impositions upon the public were practised with impunity. The words of the charter of the college run thus:—"Before this period, a great multitude of ignorant persons, of whom the greater part had no insight into physic, nor in any other kind of learning; some could not even read the letters on the book, so far forth, that common artificers, as smiths, weavers, and women, boldly and accustomably took upon them great cures, to the high displeasure of God, great infamy of the faculty, and the grievous hurt, damage, and destruction of many of the king's liege people." Previously to the establishment of the College of Physicians, the power of granting authority to practise was vested in the Bishop of London, or the Dean of St. Paul's, for the London district, and by the respective bishops of the other dioceses: persons who could not, by their education, be able to form a correct opinion of the qualifications necessary in a medical practitioner. To place the admission of efficient persons to practise in competent hands, Linacre proposed to establish a College or Corporate Society of Physicians, who should, alone, be entitled to the privilege of admitting all persons whatever to the practice of physic, as well as to the supervising of all prescriptions, and the examination of drugs. Linacre employed his interest with Cardinal Wolsey to procure Letters Patent, in 1518, from Henry VIII.; and these being confirmed by the Parliament, the Royal College of Physicians was founded. The munificence of the crown was confined to the grant of the letters patent; the expenses and provisions for the College were to be defrayed out of his own means, or those who were associated with him in its foundation. The constitution of the College expressly provided for the examination of the candidates intending to practise,

by the President and three of the Elects, who have power to grant letters testimonial to the qualified, unless they should be graduates of the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, and who, by that degree, already possessed a right to practise all over England, except within seven miles of London, without taking any license out from the bishop. The ordinances and statutes which the College has been empowered to establish, have, doubtless, tended to elevate the character of the profession, to ensure to the public the attendance of those whose learning and course of study have qualified them for the treatment of disease, and to the suppression of quackery and the impositions of the wicked and ignorant. Linacre was appointed the FIRST PRESIDENT of the College; and he retained the office for the remainder of his life, a period of nearly seven years. The meetings were held at his house, No. 5, Knight Rider Street, Doctor's Commons (known by the name of the Stone House), which, it is said, he bequeathed to the College. The arms of the College are to this day affixed upon the house, and are placed between the two centre windows of the first floor. They were obtained Sept. 20, 1546—Christopher Barker, Garter King at Arms—and consist of, Sable, a hand proper, vested argent, issuant out of clouds in chief of the second, rayonée, Or, feeling the pulse of an arm in fesse, proper, issuant from the sinister side of the shield, vested argent; in base a pomegranate between five demi-fleurs-de-lis bordering the edge of the escutcheon, Or.

Linacre published several works, mathematical, philological, and medical.

1. Sphæræ Procli, cum Astronomicis, Venet. apud Aldum. 1499. fol. This translation was dedicated to his pupil, the Prince Arthur.

2. De Emendata Structura Latini Sermonis, lib. vi. Lond 1524. 4to. This work was not published until after the author's death, and was recommended by Melancthon. Many additions have appeared: Basil, 1530; Paris, 1532; Leipsic, 1545. Lutetiæ apud R. Steph. 1550. Venet. apud Ald. 1557.

3. Rudimenta Grammatices. This Latin Grammar was composed for his pupil, the Princess Mary, to whom it is dedicated; and in the preface he says, "that having been appointed by the King to take care of the health of the Princess, and not being able, on account of his own increasing infirmities, to perform the duties of a physician, he bethought himself how he could be of the most use to his illustrious charge. He saw in the Princess a most favourable disposition towards the cultivation of letters, and he therefore devoted himself to the perfection of this treatise on the Rudiments of the Latin Grammar, which might aid her Highness in her studies." This work was translated into Latin by Buchanan; and printed at Paris in 1533, and again in 1546.

The medical works consist of translations from Galen; of which Fuller says, "By his endeavours, Galen speaks better Latine in the translation,

than he had Greek in the original:" and Erasmus bears a similar testimony They consist of,

1. De Sanitate tuenda. Parisiis. 1517. This work is dedicated to Henry VIII. A presentation copy to Cardinal Wolsey, printed on vellum, of great beauty, is preserved in the British Museum. The arms of the Cardinal are emblazoned and illuminated at the top, and those of Henry VIII. at the bottom, of the title page. A Latin epistle (from which the Autograph accompanying the Portrait of Linacre is taken) is inserted in this volume; and the following translation of it may be interesting to the medical reader, as it relates to the writings of Galen:

"To the Reverend Father and Lord in Christ, the Lord Thomas, by Divine providence Priest Cardinal of St. Cecilia, Archbishop of York, Legate of the Apostolic See to England, Primate [illegible], Chancellor, Thomas Linacre, physician, presents his dutiful respects.

"I send you, most reverend Father, a copy of my Works, which I lately dedicated to our most [illegible] Prince, in order that I may consult your health as well as his. In so doing, I think that I have the best justification: since you so consult his tranquillity and security, (which not to do [illegible] most unworthy) not to cares of state can it hurt his health. I wish that your [illegible] would allow you to read through these treatises! You would find, (unless I too much flatter myself) my own work deserves much that would be to your taste, for out of your [illegible] you can immediately admit every thing, but only that which is recommended [illegible]. If [illegible] is nothing (as they say) spoken "gratis;" but every thing either [illegible] experiments, or asserted upon the strongest reasonings, so that not one of these [illegible] is neatly 1500 years! for so long is it since the age of their author. But [illegible] you may [illegible] weigh them with your very accurate judgment, or whether [illegible] you, whose duty it is to watch day and night over your health; it will be easily discovered, by what things, and from what abstaining, you will not only be most free from diseases, but put off [illegible] to the most late period.—Which alone is a sufficient reward of my labour.

"In the six Commentaries will be understood the whole *rationale* of the diet of the ancients. Of which, if any one shall the less approve, because forsooth it differs from our own, he ought to remember that it has been established by the calculation of those whose wisdom, to this day, in every other concerns of life, cannot be admired too highly. Wherefore we ought the more to correct our present practice for the very reason that it does not agree with that (of the ancients) [illegible] well."

2. Methodis Medendi vel de Morbis Curandis, lib. xiv. Paris, 1519. The presentation copies of this work, belonging to Henry VIII. and Cardinal Wolsey, are printed on vellum, are in the library of the British Museum. To these are [illegible] Latin Epistles.

3. De Temperamentis et de Inaequali intemperie, lib. iii. Cantab. 1521. This is inscribed to Pope Leo X., with whom Linacre had studied Latin under Politian.

4. De Pulsuum Usu. Lond. 1522. Reprinted by Colbrancus, 1528, with the four [illegible] De Morborum Symptomatibus. It was dedicated to Cardinal Wolsey, as a New Years Gift, with wishes for his prosperity and happiness, and with the hope that the work, whose brevity was little proportioned to the importance and ingenuity of its [illegible], might prove acceptable to him, whose mind was bent on the promotion of learning, and who supplied the place of parent to those who professed it.

5. De Naturalibus Facultatibus, lib iii. Lond. 1523. This was dedicated to his friend and patron, the Archbishop Warham.

6. De Symptomatum differentiis, lib. i. De Symptomatum Causis, lib. iii. Lond. 1524.

Some of these pieces are of great rarity. Linacre's intimate acquaintance with the Greek language well qualified him to translate Galen into Latin.

Mary Wollstonecraft.

MARK AKENSIDE, M.D. F.R.S.

"Quæ tibi, quæ tali reddam pro carmine dona?"—VIRG.

Mark Akenside was a native of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and born on the 9th of November, 1721. He was the son of a butcher: the recollection of which he was always anxious to suppress. To such an extent did he carry this ridiculous feeling, that, as it is reported, he could never regard a lameness, which impeded his walking with facility, otherwise than as an unpleasant memento of a cut of the foot which he received from the fall of one of his father's cleavers when about seven years of age. His parents were Presbyterians, and strict in the observance of their religious duties. Akenside was destined for the ministry, and placed under the care of Mr. Wilson, a dissenting minister at Newcastle. In a MS. dedication* of his poem, "The Pleasures of Imagination," to his friend, Mr. Jeremiah Dyson, he writes his name *Akinside;* so, also, in his "Ode to the Earl

* Viro conjunctissimo
JEREMIÆ DYSON,
Vitæ, Morumque suorum Duci,
Rerum bonarum Socio,
Studiorum judici,
Cujus Amicitia
Neque sanctius habet quicquam,
Neque optat carius;
Hocce Opusculum
(Vos, ô Tyrannorum impura laudes
Et servilium blandimenta Poetarum,
Abeste procul)
Dat, Dicat, Consecratque
Marcus Akinside.
xvii Calendas Jan. A. Æ. C. MDCCXLIV.

1

of Huntingdon;" in his Thesis, and in some of the earlier editions of his works. After the sixth, published in 1763, by Dodsley, (who purchased the MS. of the poem for the sum of £120, a very large price in those days, and only given, on this occasion, upon the opinion and advice of Pope, who told the bookseller that the author was "no every-day writer,") he is printed Akenside. His genius for poetry manifested itself at an early age. When only sixteen years old, he sent to the Editor of the Gentleman's Magazine a poem, written after the manner of Spenser, entitled, "The Virtuoso," in which there is exhibited much of the future talent and power of the author. "A Rhapsody on the Miseries of a Poet born to a low Estate," and a Fable illustrative of Content and Ambition, followed—and preceded that which may, perhaps, be pronounced one of the finest didactic poems in the English language, and upon which the poetical character of the author may safely rest.

Akenside entered himself a pupil in medicine at Edinburgh, in his nineteenth year, and then most honourably returned a sum of money he had received from the Dissenter's Society, which it was customary for them to allow to young men destined for the ministry. He resided in Edinburgh for two years, and was very zealous in the pursuit of medical knowledge. He became a member of the Medical Society, and particularly distinguished himself by his oratorical powers. Dr. Robertson told Dr. Stewart, the author of the Elements of the Principles of the Human Mind,* that he was frequently led to attend their meetings chiefly to hear the speeches of Akenside. The "Hymn to Science," was written at Edinburgh; also the "Ode on the Winter Solstice." The former has passages of extraordinary merit and beauty:—

"That last best effort of thy skill,
To form the life and rule the will,
Propitious Power! impart.
Teach me to cool my passion's fires,
Make me the judge of my desires,
The master of my heart.

"Raise me above the vulgar's breath,
Pursuit of fortune, fear of death,
And all in life that's mean;
Still true to reason be my plan,
Still let my actions speak the man,
Through every various scene."

Stanzas 12 and 13.

* III. 501.

From Edinburgh he removed to Leyden, then the great seat of medical science. Here, it is probable, he began to methodize his great poem. Here, also, he wrote many minor pieces: "Hymn to Cheerfulness, &c., and having studied for three years, he took his degree of Doctor of Physic, May 16, 1744, and on this occasion wrote a Thesis on the "Origin and Growth of the Human Fœtus" (De Ortu et Incremento Fœtus Humani), which was inscribed to Dr. Richard Mead.*

"The Pleasures of Imagination" was published in 1744, and immediately procured for its author, who had not yet reached his twenty-third year, a niche in the Temple of Fame. Akenside and Armstrong, both "twofold disciples of Apollo," published their chief works in the same year; and it has been well observed,† that, "they appealed to the consent of mankind in opposite directions;" for, "The Pleasures of Imagination" is rich in materials, and brilliant in imagery and versification; whilst the "Art of Preserving Health" is remarkable for its simplicity of style, and a total rejection of ornament. As poets, they eminently excelled—as physicians, they to no great extent succeeded: not from lack of medical knowledge, or zealous attention in its pursuit—but literary exertions have, most unaccountably, always been looked upon as incompatible with the duties of an arduous profession.

"The Pleasures of Imagination" has been translated into other languages: —into French, by the Baron d'Holbach; and into Italian, by the Abbati Angelo Mazza. Neither of these translations do justice to the original. The extraordinary condensation of the subject matter of the poem, will satisfactorily account for these failures.

Akenside started as a physician at Northampton, where he resided for about a year and a half only, the chief practice being engrossed by Dr. Stonehouse. During this time he probably composed many of his Odes. He came to London under the protection of his generous friend, Mr. Dyson, afterwards Clerk of the House of Commons; resided at North End, Hampstead; and frequented the clubs and assemblies of the metropolis. About 1747, he took up his abode in Bloomsbury Square, where he continued for the remainder of his life. He was admitted, by mandamus, to a Doctor's degree at Cambridge; he was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society; and elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Mr. Dyson assigned to him an annual income of £300, to enable him to make his way as a phy-

* According to Chalmers, he also took a degree at Edinburgh; but I am disposed to think this a mistake.

† Bucke's Life of Akenside, p. 30.

sician. This liberal man and constant friend is alluded to by the poet in the beautiful Invocation to his poem:—

——— "O, my faithful friend!
O early chosen, ever found the same,
And trusted and beloved! Once more, the verse
Long destined, always obvious to thine ear,
Attend indulgent: so in latest years,
When time thy head with honours shall have clothed,
Sacred to even virtue, may thy mind,
Amid the calm review of seasons past,
Fair offices of friendship, or kind peace,
Or public zeal:—may then thy mind, well pleased,
Recall those happy studies of our prime."

Akenside became a candidate for the situation of physician to the Charter House, but was unsuccessful. In July, 1755, he was appointed to deliver the Gulstonian Lectures before the Royal College of Physicians. These have not been printed. The subject selected was the Function of the Lymphatic or Absorbent System. The real constitution of this system was unknown until a comparatively late period. Galen, and the ancients, looked upon the lymphatics as forming a part of the sanguiferous, or rather venous, system: hence the opinions relative to venous absorption; in support of which the illustrious names of Ruysch, Boerhaave, Meckel, Swammerdam, and Haller, may be cited. Dr. William Hunter and Dr. Monro (secundus) have denied, altogether, the doctrine of venous absorption, and contended for the sole power of the lymphatics in the performance of that important function. The controversy between Hunter and Monro, for the priority in the promulgation of this opinion, is well known; but it will appear that Akenside is entitled to this distinction, since his opinions were delivered before the Royal College of Physicians in 1755, whereas those of Hunter and Monro did not appear until 1757. It is reasonable to presume that Akenside had the Extracts from his Gulstonian Lectures read at the Royal Society, and inserted in the Philosophical Transactions,* in consequence of this dispute; and adopted this method of laying his claim to the doctrine, though he carefully abstained from any notice of the pretensions of others. In these "Extracts" he states his objections to the doctrine of Boerhaave and the mechanical philosophers, and advocates the independency of the lymphatic system.†

* Vol. L. p. 322. Read Nov. 10, 1757.

† The insertion of these Extracts occasioned Dr. Monro to attach a postscript to his "Observations, Anatomical and Physiological." Upon which Akenside, according

In January, 1759, Akenside was chosen Assistant Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital: and in two months afterwards one of the physicians. He was also, in the same year, appointed Assistant Physician to Christ's Hospital; by which it would appear that his character as a physician, in London, must have been by this time established. In 1761, through the interest of Mr. Dyson, he was appointed one of the physicians to the Queen. Akenside was associated with two most distinguished physicians at St. Thomas's Hospital—Drs. Russell and Grieve. It is very much to be lamented that we have so few personal accounts of Akenside. Mr. Dyson, who could have said more upon the subject than any one else, is remarkably silent on this head. He has not, indeed, "revealed a solitary feature in the character of the poet." The late Dr. Lettsom was a pupil at St. Thomas's Hospital in the year 1766: and, in a MS. in the possession of the writer of this sketch, he has drawn the characters and depicted the conduct of his teachers. The picture is unfavourable to Akenside, who is stated to have been most supercilious and unfeeling. "If the poor affrighted patients did not return a direct answer to his queries, he would often instantly discharge them from the hospital. He evinced a particular disgust to females, and generally treated them with harshness.* It was stated, that this moroseness was occa-

to Chalmers, printed some remarks in 1756. I have not been able to meet with these in any library, public or private. At all events, they could not have been printed before 1758.

* Many passages from the writings of Akenside might be quoted in contradiction to this statement; which, however, as far as regards the testimony of Lettsom, is unquestionable. In the ode, "At Study," we read—

"Love is native to the heart,
Guide its wishes as you will,
Without love you'll find it still
Void in one essential part."

Again:—

"Though the day have smoothly gone,
Or to letter'd leisure known,
Or in social duty spent,
Yet, at eve, my lonely breast,
Seeks in vain for perfect rest,
Languishes for true content."

In another place he depicts woman—

——— "powerful with beaming smiles,
Chief of terrestrial nature!"

stoned by disappointment in love; but hapless must have been that female who should have been placed under his tyranny." Lettsom was inexpressibly shocked at an instance of Dr. Akenside's inhumanity, exercised towards a patient in Abraham's ward, who had been ordered bark in boluses; who, in consequence of not being able to swallow them, so irritated Akenside, as to order the sister of the ward to discharge him from the hospital; adding, "He shall not die under my care." As the sister was removing him, in obedience to the Doctor, the patient expired.

"One leg of Akenside was considerably shorter than the other: which was in some measure remedied by the aid of a false heel. He had a pale, strumous countenance, but was always very neat and elegant in his dress. He wore a large white wig, and carried a long sword." Lettsom never knew him to spit; nor would he suffer any pupil to spit in his presence. One of them once accidentally did so, yet standing at some distance behind him; the Doctor instantly spun round on his artificial heel, and hastily demanded who was the person that spit in his face. Sometimes he would order some of the patients, on his visiting days, to precede him with brooms, to clear the way, and prevent the patients from too nearly approaching him. On one of these occasions, Richard Chester, one of the Governors, upbraided him for his cruel behaviour: "Know," said he, "thou art a servant of this charity." On one occasion his anger was excited to a very high pitch, by the answer which Mr. Baker, the surgeon, gave to a question the Doctor put to him respecting one of his sons, who was subject to epilepsy, which had somewhat impaired his understanding. "To what study do you propose to place him?" said Akenside to Baker. "I find," replied Baker, "he is not capable of making a surgeon, so I have sent him to Edinburgh to make a physician of him." Akenside turned round from Baker with impetuosity, and would not speak to him for a considerable time afterwards.

"Dr. Russell was as condescending as Akenside was petulant. Akenside, however, would sometimes condescend to explain a case of disease to the pupils, which always appeared sagacious; and, notwithstanding his irritable temper, he was more followed than Russell by the pupils.

"Dr. Grieve lived in the Charter House, to which he was physician. He was an amiable man, and an unassuming scholar. He was the translator of Celsus."

Mr. Meyrick's testimony is much in accordance with that of Dr. Lettsom. Mr. M. was a surgeon and apothecary; and frequently called in Akenside, with whom he was in habits of intimacy. "We were not very much like, either (says Mr. M.): for he was stiff and set; and I, all life and spirits. He

often frowned upon me in a sick-room. He could not bear to see any one smile in the presence of an invalid; and I think he lost a good deal of business by the solemn sententiousness of his air and manner. I wanted to cheer patients up!"*

One year after his appointment to St. Thomas's Hospital he was chosen to deliver the Harvæian Oration at the Royal College of Physicians; and it was published, by Dodsley, in 1760, with a dedication to the President, Dr. Reeve. From this time to the period of his death he published various papers in the Philosophical Transactions, the Transactions of the Royal College of Physicians, and separate tracts. He communicated, in 1763, to the Royal Society, the account of a very curious case of an "Affection of the Heart," which appeared to be the result of a blow received six months previous to death, and which drove the edge of a plate forcibly between the ribs. The appearances, upon dissection, warranted the opinion of Dr. A. as to the cause of death; but there is mention made of the patient having been crippled with rheumatism a year previously to the accident, which the researches of modern practitioners would tend to shew had some connexion with the case. He also printed "Observations on Cancers," and "On the Use of Ipecacuanha in Asthmas;" also, a "Method of treating White Swellings of the Joints:" all of which are among the papers contained in the first volume of the Transactions of the Royal College of Physicians.† The style of those papers is lucid, and entirely devoid of affectation: plain, concise, and unassuming. His doctrine, in the paper on Cancers, will not be admitted in the present day: and the remedy recommended by him (the hemlock, as lauded by Dr. Storck of Vienna,) in this disorder, has been too frequently employed without any beneficial effect. The value of Ipecacuanha, in some cases of asthma, is now generally admitted. The remarks on the use of blisters in white swellings of the joints, are judicious. His principal medical work is entitled, "De Dysenteria Commentarius," and was published in 1764. It was well received: and translated by Dr. Ryan in 1766, and by Mr. Motteux in 1768, though neither of these versions do justice to the original. The Latinity of the Harvæian Oration and the work on Dysentery is much esteemed for its purity and elegance. The medical character of Akenside may be estimated by

* Bucke's Life of Akenside, p. 29.

† Akenside read some observations on the "Putrid Erysipelas" before the College which were intended to have been printed in the second volume of the Transactions. He had them home, for the purpose of correction, at the time of his death, and they were never returned to the College.

this latter publication. It is a clear and succinct account of the disease, much more satisfactory than any that had preceded it; and the mode of treatment, by the exhibition of Ipecacuanha, has been adopted to the present time. Few diseases have attracted more the attention of medical practitioners; but it is only of late years that the necessary distinctions have been made of its several types, and the varied measures necessary for their cure. The opinion now entertained of the disease, is that of its being an inflammatory action seated in the mucous membrane of the intestines, chiefly of the larger ones, and producing more or less constitutional disturbance, according to the extent of the disease. Akenside does not look upon dysentery as an inflammatory disorder; and he assumes this point from the circumstance that often there is very little fever attending the disease: which, he observes, is not the case in an inflammation of the bowels. No distinction, in his time, was made between inflammation affecting the serous or the mucous surfaces of the intestines: nor were the symptoms indicative of either, then discriminated. Modern practitioners have marked these, and the disease is consequently much better understood than formerly. It is unnecessary to dwell longer on this topic than to say, that the remedy most approved by Akenside is that which, indeed, seems best calculated to afford relief to most of its stages and conditions, and to be extensively used at the present time.

Akenside was appointed to deliver the Croonian Lectures at the Royal College of Physicians; and he singularly made choice of a subject, though connected with medicine, yet in a very partial degree; and, after having delivered three lectures on the "History of the Revival of Learning," he discontinued the course; the subject being considered by the Fellows as foreign to the intention of the founder of the lectures and the purposes of the institution. These appear to have been his concluding medical labours (if such they may be called): for shortly after, namely, on the 23d of June, 1770, his death took place, occasioned by a putrid sore throat. He was buried in St. James's Church; and he left all his effects, books, &c., to his constant friend Mr. Dyson.

Thus died Akenside, in the 49th year of his age—in the full possession of his intellectual powers—surrounded by numerous friends, of great excellence and high character—in the enjoyment of a select, not an extensive, practice—and celebrated as a poet, a philosopher, and an elegant scholar. His critical powers were highly estimated by his contemporaries and by the public; yet he does not appear to have enjoyed any particular intimacy with the poets of his day, among whom are to be found Armstrong, Thomson, Young, Glover, Somerville, Collins, Lyttelton, Gray, Mason,

Butler, and others. His manners seem to have been solemn and reserved, and his temper irritable; but there is scarcely reason to question the benevolence of his heart. George Hardinge says, "He had, in general society, a pomp and stiffness of *manner*, not of *expression*—in which last he was no less chaste than flowing and correct. But the misfortune of this *manner* was in some degree connected with his figure and appearance. He looked as if he never could be *undressed;* and the hitch in his gait, compared with a solemn cast in his features, was, at the best, of a kind that was not companionable, and rather kept strangers at a distance from him. Though his features were good, manly, and expressive, a pale complexion of rather a sickly hue, and the laboured primness of a powdered wig in stiff curl, made his appearance altogether unpromising, if not grotesque. But, where he was intimate, was admired, and was pleased with his party, he conversed most eloquently and gracefully."* He was not a wit, and had no patience for jests. He is said to have been of the absurd opinion of Lord Waldegrave, that "a true gentleman never jests." He had great satirical powers, as his Epistle to Curio manifests This is a severe invective on Mr. Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath. In this Epistle, Akenside severely reproaches him for his treachery; and represents, in lively colours, the charms of freedom and virtue, and the infamy attendant upon principles founded on despotism and slavery.

In early life Akenside was distinguished by his oratorical powers, his historical knowledge, and his philosophical taste. His memory was very powerful. It is said† that, in the society of those mild and gentle spirits who admired his genius and respected his virtues, he was kindness itself. His language flowed chastely, gracefully, and eloquently: and his varied knowledge, argumentative reasonings, and nice distinctions, his fine appreciation of philosophical allusions, and keen relish for the beauties of the creation, would display themselves in pure and copious streams of eloquence, never, perhaps, surpassed by the greatest masters of social life the world ever knew. His life is marked by a course of undeviating rectitude. His love of liberty, his hatred of tyranny, bigotry, and hypocrisy, constant; his admiration of virtue and integrity, exalted and uniform. His politics may be gathered from his "Ode to the Earl of Huntingdon," one of his finest compositions. As an English lyric poem, it stands pre-eminently great. Akenside must be regarded as a Whig. He espoused the principles of the Revolution. He was not a republican. He equally detested tyranny and bigotry. His great poem demonstrates this in every page. He was a

* Nichols's Literary Anecdotes, vol. viii. † Bucke, p. 221.

great admirer of the writings of Plato, Cicero, and other ancient philosophers; and his religious opinions were probably influenced by the estimation in which he held these great authors of antiquity. He is to be looked upon as a Theist. Religion was a subject upon which he seldom conversed. From various passages in his writings, it is manifest he had great reverence for the Christian doctrine. The wisdom and benevolence of the Deity are constant themes for the veneration of the poet throughout the "Pleasures of Imagination." Mr. Bucke has given an extract* from a letter of Akenside's, supposed to have been addressed to Dr. Grainger, so highly commended by Dr. Percy, Bishop of Dromore, and which, after noticing the various opinions that have been entertained by philosophers respecting the nature of the human soul, concludes thus:—"It is a great satisfaction, however, that we live in a world presenting, every moment, something to exercise our faculties; and that the Grand Mover of the whole will, no doubt, make ample allowances for human infirmity." The fame of Akenside, it must be obvious, rests more upon his poetical than his medical character. The excellence of his "Pleasures of Imagination" is universally admitted; though differences of opinion as to its particular merits, have been entertained. Cooper† regards it as "the most beautiful didactic poem that ever adorned the English language." The writers of the Biographia Britannica look upon it as "a noble and beautiful poem; exhibiting many bright displays of genius and fancy, and holding out sublime views of nature, providence, and morality." Dr. Johnson says, "I could not read it through." His opinion of the Odes was not more favourable:—"One bad ode may be suffered; but a number of them makes one sick." But Akenside, be it remembered, was a Whig; and Johnson carried his strong prejudices, theological and political, into nearly all his criticisms.

It was the intention of Akenside to correct, or rather re-write, his "Pleasures of Imagination." He printed the first and second books, and transcribed a portion of the third; and he also wrote an introduction to an intended fourth book. Those have been published by Mr. Dyson; who considered them too valuable, even in their imperfect state, to be withheld from the public. Mr. Pinkerton became the possessor of Akenside's copy of his original poem with his marginal alterations, many of which are great improvements. Mr. P. put these in a collection of "Letters of Literature, by Robert Heron, Esq." 8vo. Lond. 1785.

The Portrait accompanying this Memoir was painted by Pond when the poet was in the thirty-fifth year of his age. The Autograph is from the statute-book of the Royal Society.

* Life, p. 181. † Letters on Taste.

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ADDRESS TO THE SUBSCRIBERS.

THREE Parts of this work on MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY being now published, the Profession and the Public are, I trust, in possession of sufficient materials to form a judgment of the character of the whole. I cannot but feel exceedingly flattered by the expression of praise that has been bestowed upon my Work by those who are the most competent to form an opinion upon the subject. The approval of the Press has also been highly gratifying; but I have had numerous communications forwarded to me, objecting to the plan I have adopted. Sterne says, "that of all the several ways of beginning a book which are now in practice throughout the known world, I am confident my own way of doing it is the best." Now, although I am not disposed to go so far as Sterne does in this matter, yet I am fully satisfied, that if I had listened to, or acted upon, the suggestions that have been offered, my Work would have fallen still-born from the Press. My object, I cannot but fear, has been imperfectly understood. I have not professed to write a regular History of Medicine and Surgery: my intention is, to give all the chief points of that history in a series of Memoirs, taking for the subjects of these such individuals as have laboured most effectually in the advancement of any particular branch of Medical Science. But, as it would not be possible to obtain the BEST PORTRAITS, or materials, in the natural order of time, I have not felt myself bound to any specific method. The work is not consecutively paged; but each Memoir is perfect in itself, and is separately numbered at the bottom of the page. The Memoirs can therefore be arranged according to the fancy of the possessor of the Work, either in the order of time or subject, or the LIVING can be separated altogether from the DEAD. In executing such a Work, I have conceived that I have been doing service to my profession. There exists no collection of Medical Portraits: there are many of the Nobility, Statesmen, Divines, Artists, &c. The Portraits of Medical Men are scattered abroad, and there is some difficulty in obtaining information of the best. None but the BEST, however, shall be engraved, and as many originals as possible. In this respect I have been very fortunate: for not only have the Colleges, and the Royal Society, and other Public Institutions, opened their stores for my use, but private individuals have, with great liberality, been equally zealous in aiding my Work; and I owe, in an especial manner, my thanks to the Widow of the late celebrated Dr. Baillie, for offering to me the use not only of an Original Portrait of her Husband by Hoppner, but also splendid Portraits, that have not hitherto been engraved, of Dr. William Hunter, by Pine, and John Hunter, by Home. I owe also to Dr. Baron the loan of an unengraved Portrait of Dr. Jenner, by Sir Thomas Lawrence; and it is due to Mr. Diamond to record his liberality in opening to me his collection of Medical Drawings and Engravings, the most extensive in this country, and offering to me the use of any in his possession.

I should act with injustice were I not to notice the liberality and spirit of my Publishers, who have ventured no inconsiderable sum in this undertaking; and who will, I am assured, spare no expense in rendering it worthy of the public patronage. I trust that the Profession, in particular, will duly estimate this conduct, and give their support to a measure calculated to raise the dignity of the Profession, and to set forth the labours of those who have extended the boundaries of science, and benefited mankind. The attention of English Physicians and Surgeons has not been sufficiently directed to the literature of their Profession; the Italians, the French, but, above all, the Germans, have surpassed us in their researches into the History of Medical Science. I trust this Work may induce others to labour in this field. I must admit that the most reasonable fears entertained with regard to my Work have been those which relate to the delicacy necessary to be observed in writing any Memoir of a living Character. But it must be recollected that my object is not the personal character of the individual, otherwise than as connected with his professional duties: these it is essential to notice; and I hope I may, without vanity, say, that I have lived long enough, and read enough, and seen enough of my Profession and Society, to enable me to perform this task with justice and impartiality, and thus acquit myself of a duty I now owe to the Public in the execution of this Work. It will be much more gratifying to me to praise than to censure; but I shall not forget the advice of the poet—

> "Do boldly what you do, and let your page
> Smile, if it smiles; and if it rages, rage."

I shall be found a determined enemy to all quackery, and a zealous admirer of all that is just, noble, and generous. No sordid motive has tempted me to this undertaking: it has sprung from a desire to employ the fruits of a long course of reading and study—to display the benefits that have resulted from the cultivation of science, as shown in the lives of those whose researches have advanced Medical Knowledge—and, in holding them up to the admiration of mankind, to elevate the character of my Profession, and stimulate others to follow the brilliant examples that are set before them.

T. J. PETTIGREW.

SAVILLE ROW,
May 1, 1838.

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